

Photos by **JEREMIAH COUGHLAN** of The Columbian

involving a simulated terrorist attack.

Left: Dressed as a terrorist, a participant shows himself on the roof of City University's campus near Vancouver Mall during the exercise.



Right: Paramedic Sandy Clark applies fake blood to volunteer firefighter Julie Carl on Wednesday during the training exercise near Vancouver Mall. Carl was one of about 20 people acting as victims of terrorist gunfire.

And without the tax support, it will cost more to borrow the money from private investors.

"Getting the financing for this thing is going to be tough," concluded Vancouver economic development analyst Gerald Baugh.

"And frankly, the city has other priorities," Baugh added. "We want to get the downtown special events center done. The baseball stadium is not part of our economic redevelopment roadmap."

Not to mention the fact that a real number-crunching feasibility

BASEBALL/ please see B11

"We've got the judge sitting in the vault."

CHARLENE HISS, COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Court, library split up

Camas-Washougal Municipal Court will leave crowded library building

By **STEPHANIE THOMSON**
Columbian staff writer

CAMAS — Upstairs, in Camas Municipal Court, a man pleads guilty to misdemeanor assault.

Downstairs, in the Camas Public Library, a mother finds books for her three young children.

Books and crooks — not a good mix.

Just about everyone — court, city, library and police officials — has agreed on this point.

And so the two public services will finally separate at the end of the summer, when the Camas-Washougal Municipal Court moves out of the second floor of the library and into its own space.

The new court office will be in the for-

mer Clark Public Utilities building, 89 C St. in Washougal.

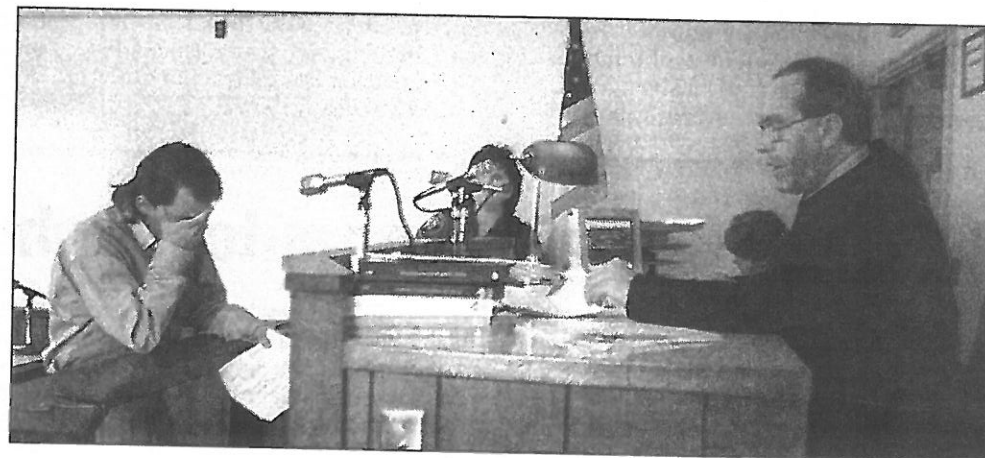
District Court Administrator Charlene Hiss said the new court building will be an east county service center, where people can do things that currently mean a drive to Vancouver: pay district court fines, check out county job openings, meet with an appraiser or review county records.

The court can move into its new digs Aug. 1.

Crowded courtroom

One of the biggest problems with having a court in the library has been big crowds on Thursdays, when the county sends out a district judge from Vancouver for bench trials and arraignments. The rest of the week, people come to court just for paperwork.

But on court day, the second floor fills with people charged with committing a misdemeanor — for example, domestic violence assault or possession of marijuana



JANET L. MATHEWS/The Columbian

Legal woes: Clark County District Court Magistrate Vernon Schreiber presides during a recent day in Camas-Washougal Municipal Court, which shares a building with the Camas Public Library. By the end of summer, the court will move into its own space in Washougal. In the background is Camas Police reserve officer Chris Pearce, who handles bailiff duties for the court.

or a traffic violation — in Camas or Washougal.

The courtroom's capacity is 49, which means everyone else sits in the hallway and on the stairs.

"A court is supposed to be an open and public proceeding," Hiss said. She added having family members there often makes an appearance easier on the accused, and she hates "to send those people out in the hallway."

A cramped office space has barely

enough room for four people — two clerical staff, a Camas police officer who acts as bailiff and a judge — to move around.

"We've got the judge sitting in the vault," Hiss said, and it's true: a vault in the office area is stuffed with filing cabinets and boxes and also serves as the judge's chamber/coat closet/break room.

The new building, which the county will lease from the Port of Camas-Washougal,

COURT/ please see B11

Court

Some people avoid the library on court days

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include offices for the judge and a prosecuting attorney.

Crowded library

Library Director David Zavortink can also use more space.

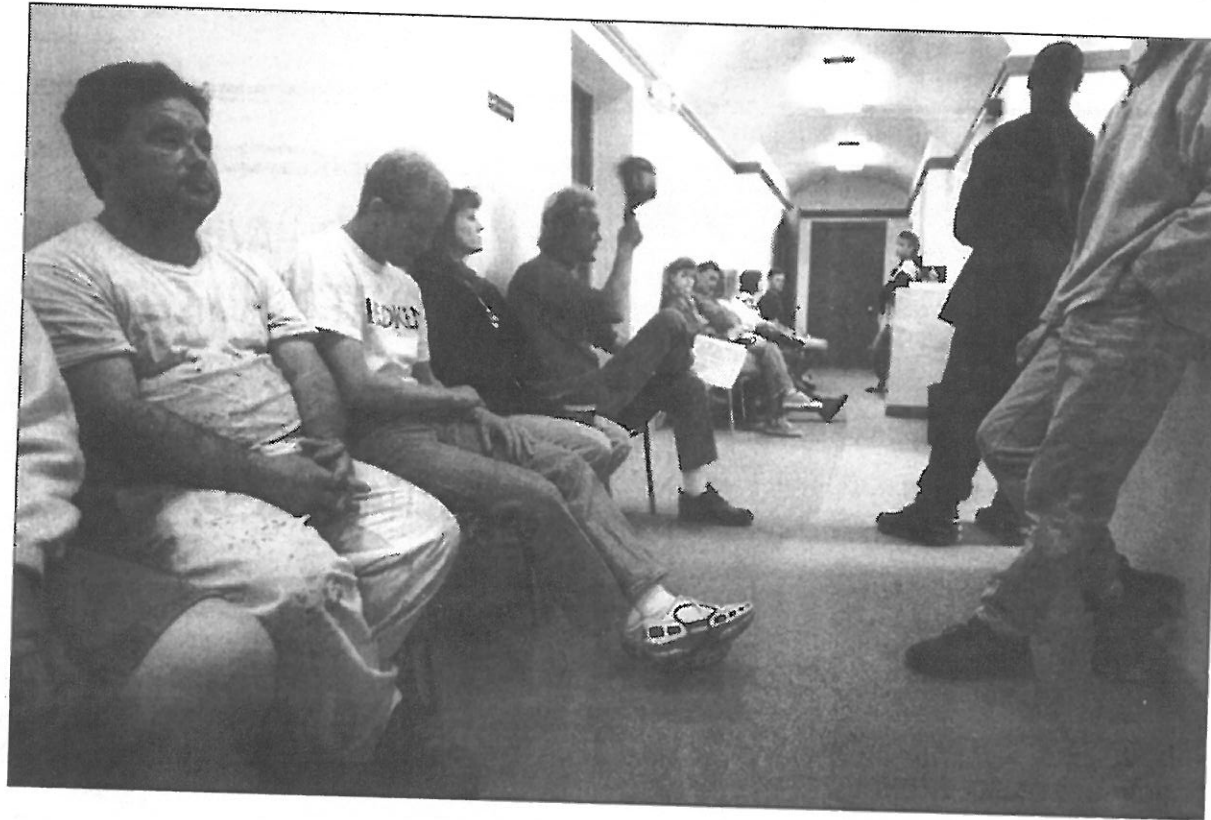
"We get one book in, and one book has to leave," he said.

Another portion of the upstairs could be used for a community meeting room, he said.

Zavortink has a sense of humor about his upstairs neighbors, but he's had no choice, as the court has been there for more than 20 years, long before Zavortink arrived.

There's no ignoring the presence of the court, he said. While there are separate entrances at the brick building in downtown Camas, he hears the thumps of people kicking the wall outside his office as they go out the door. He has dealt with people who expressed their distaste for the judicial system by urinating in the hallway.

He's heard shouting matches and heated phone conversations, as the only pay phone in the building is in the small lobby of



The waiting game: Chairs inside the courtroom fill up quickly on Thursdays, when people charged with misdemeanor offenses in Camas and Washougal appear before the judge. The overflow crowd waits in the hallway and people often resort to sitting in the stairwell.

JANET L. MATHEWS/The Columbian

the library.

He's seen police officers come in, "guns drawn," to settle a scuffle.

"It's a little disconcerting," he

said.

And, he's had bookworms tell him they avoid the library on Thursdays.

"When a mom comes in with a

3-year-old, 18-month-old and her 7-year-old, she's here to use the library," he said, "and not to mingle with people who may or may not have a criminal record."

Baseball

Clark College, Kyocera sites considered for stadium

From Page B1

Killer pleads guilty, gets life sentence, in '85 tragedy

SEATTLE (AP) — A man has pleaded guilty to the brutal 1985 slayings of a Seattle couple and their two sons, resolving a case thrown into question when his conviction and death sentence

communist. Goldmark was neither.

U.S. District Judge Jack Tanner last year ordered a new trial for Rice, saying he did not receive ef-

ing Rice's confession, could be ruled inadmissible in a second trial. That could put conviction at risk.

"Today's plea removing the possibility of the death penalty also re-

Judge t some c Wenatch

By AVIVA L. BRANDT
Associated Press writer

SEATTLE — The judge in a \$100 million Wenatchee sex lawsuit today threw out charges against five defendants in the Spokane County Superior Court. Judge Michael Donohue said the plaintiffs had not provided enough evidence to support claims against a private mental-health therapist and four state social workers.

He said he was still considering defense motions to drop charges against three officials in the Douglas County Sheriff's Department.

The primary plaintiffs in the suit — Pastor Robert "R" Roberson and his wife Cori Roberson and his wife Cori Roberson and his wife Cori Roberson — Sunday-school teacher Heidi Sims and parishioner Donna driguez — allege that overzealous police and state caseworkers lied children into accusations against some adults into confessions.

The Robersons and Sims were acquitted in 1995 of child rape molestation. Charges against driguez were dropped when one of her five accusers recanted.

Defendants now include the Wenatchee and some city police officials, a state caseworker, Douglas County and three members of its sheriff's department.

Donohue was ruling on defense motions filed earlier this week seeking dismissal of charges